

# Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Update Deer Park, Texas June 3, 2019 00:00 – June 9, 2019 23:59

## **Incident Management Objectives:**

**Objective 1**: Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

**Objective 2**: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

**Objective 3**: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

**Objective 4:** Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

**Objective 5:** Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 6:** Respond to, mitigate and recover off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 7**: Maintain open communication with Regional management

## **Incident Overview:**

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The impacted ITC facility tank farm consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to the drainage pathway. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing tank products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the north side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). ITC rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

As a result of the fire, nine of the fifteen oil tanks had been burned and collapsed. One of the tanks had been burned and damaged, but not completely collapsed. Two tanks had become overheated and smoked but were not significantly damaged. Four of the tanks had smoked but did not burn. It is possible that all fifteen tanks were impacted to varying extent by the incident.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 parts per million (ppm) were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring.

EPA created the EPA website response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire on March 17, 2019 and began sharing information with the public. EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) posted the Story Map Resource Interactive tool for the ITC incident. The Story Map provides easy access for EPA and TCEQ incident data.

#### **Executive Overview:**

- During the week of June 3, 2019, ITC continued to discharge from their wastewater treatment plant. The flow rate was reduced to 50 gallons per minute (GPM) while the carbon beds were changed but should increase to 100 GPM.
- Deconstruction of tanks 80-15, -14, -13, and -10 have been completed. Deconstruction of 80-7 is at 95% and should be complete this week.
- Deconstruction is currently suspended but is scheduled to continue late this week due to a suspension of activities to allow for agency, plaintiff, insurance, and customer inspections.
- ITC resumed shipping water from tank 8-1 to Delta and Molecular for disposal.
- As of June 7, 2019, there were approximately 5,786 bbl of incident liquids remaining in tank 80-34 to be processed.
- ITC will continue air monitoring at current resource levels.

## **Land Operations:**

The table will reflect the most recent status during the tank deconstruction process:

Tank Status	Tank No.	
Complete & Clean – No further action (NFA) needed	80-1, 80-4, 80-9, 80-11,	
Complete – NFA possible until deconstruction begins	80-2, 80-3, 80-5, 80-6, 80-8, 80-12	
Ongoing Deconstruction Operations	80-7	
Complete – NFA following Deconstruction	80-15, 80-14, 80-13, 80-10	

### **Water Operations:**

- All water recovery operations have ceased, with patrol and monitoring on-going.
- As of May 20, 2019, the Unified Command (UC) has signed out all shoreline segments except Tucker Bayou (B14b), which will be addressed by long term remediation with planned oversight by TCEQ. SCAT has no plans to inspect Tucker Bayou (shoreline segment B14a) until tasked by UC.
- As of June 2, 2019, all deconned equipment had been removed from the decon area.

Division	Total	Total Length of	Total Length
	Shoreline	Shoreline	of Shoreline
	Length (mi)	Meeting SCAT	with UC Sign-
		End Points or	off (mi)
		Assigned NFT*	
Α	10.25	10.25	10.25
В	7.82	6.95	6.95
С	27.84	27.84	27.84
D	17.82	17.82	17.82
South &			
East of	23.22	23.22	23.22
D			
Total	86.95	86.08	86.08

• As of May 31, 2019, total volume of incident related impact liquids is 919,904 bbl. This includes volumes in barges and tanks and stormwater from the 2<sup>nd</sup> 80's tank farm.

## **Community Air Monitoring:**

 TCEQ and ITC continued to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.

### **Next week's operations:**

- ITC will continue the tank deconstruction process. ITC will continue to conduct air
  monitoring both during the day and night, around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial
  areas, and communities downwind from the facility. ITC will send daily reports that
  convey ongoing site operations and waste management to EPA and TCEQ.
- ITC anticipates completing deconstruction of tank 80-7 on the week of June 10, 2019.
- EPA and TCEQ will continue to evaluate plans for transition from the emergency response phase to the remediation phase with oversight being provided by TCEQ.

## **Coordination with State Agencies:**

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC Deer Park facility, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command response. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.

## EPA Resources (as of Sunday, June 2, 2019):

Personnel	EPA R6 Dallas	ITC Deer Park	Total
EPA Region 6	3	0	3
EPA Non-Region 6	0	0	0
START	1	0	1
Other Contractors	0	0	0
Total	4	0	4

EPA OSC and START demobilized at the end of the day on May 23, 2019. EPA presence onsite will be based on site conditions and needs, at the discretion of the EPA OSC.